

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 103675

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ORIGIN AF-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 USIA-15 /025 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W: MGWYGANT:MR

APPROVED BY AF/W: JLLOUGHRAN

AF/EPS:LMWHITE (INFO)

CU/AF:ASDALSIMER (INFO)

AF/P: JALINEHAN (INFO)

AF/C:JHDIGGS (INFO)

USIA: FENHAGEN (INFO)

----- 067172

R 172032Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COTONOU

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MOHAMED ALI VISIT TO COTONOU

REF: COTONOU 731

1. DEPARTMENT WAS APPROACHED IN MARCH BY THADDEUS ARNOLD OF VERDAD INC. REGARDING PROPOSED MOHAMED ALI EXHIBITION BOXING TOUR. ARNOLD MENTIONED INTENTION VISIT GABON, CAMEROON, NIGERIA, IVORY COAST, AND SENEGAL (BUT NOT DAHOMEY) PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER TITLE MATCH TO BE FOUGHT IN KINSHASA. DEPARTMENT REPEATING 059390 FOR COTONOU INFORMATION.

2. ARNOLD APPEARS TO BE LEGITIMATE WASHINGTON-BASED BUSINESSMAN, NEWLY ARRIVED ON LOCAL SCENE. DESK OFFICER SPOKE WITH HIM MAY 16, AND HE PROMISED KEEP DEPARTMENT INFORMED ABOUT ALI'S TOUR PLANS. YOU SHOULD TELL MRGD THAT WHILE EMBASSY OBVIOUSLY INTERESTED IN ALI EXHIBITION, HIS US PROMOTERS HAVE MADE IT CLEAR VISIT WILL BE HANDLED PRIVATELY, NOT TO INCLUDE USG FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

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RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ATHLETES, ATHLETIC PRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE103675
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MGWYGANT:MR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740123-0881
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740537/aaaabgwi.tel
Line Count: 61
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: COTONOU 731
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 AUG 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <24 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOHAMED ALI VISIT TO COTONOU
TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, OTRA, DM, (ALI, MOHAMED)
To: COTONOU
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005